



Leading a broad partnership that implements meaningful solutions  
to improve the lives of our children and families

## Background

The Office of Child Protection (OCP) was established by order of the Board of Supervisors on June 10, 2014 to implement the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) and oversee a unified, countywide child protection system. The Office became fully operational on February 2, 2015 with the identification of an Interim Director and the assignment of staff. The OCP mission requires a robust network of agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, joined together in the pursuit of child protection. The foundational steps include developing a framework for child-centered and family-focused integrated service delivery for the protection of children. Through enhanced coordination of effort and removal of systemic barriers, the OCP is working with the network on such initiatives highlighted below.

## Major Initiatives

INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION
<b>CSW-PHN Joint Visit Initiative</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pairing a Public Health Nurse (PHN) with a Children's Social Worker (CSW) in child abuse/neglect investigations for all children under 24 months of age.</li><li>New process includes referrals to Medical Hub by the PHN, when medically necessary.</li></ul>
<b>Data Sharing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Establishing a mechanism for electronically sharing information on adults suspected of child abuse/neglect in near real time across County departments to protect children from harm.</li></ul>
<b>Environmental Scan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Developing a reference guide on over 600 programs focused on child safety and well-being through collaborative partnerships involving a total of 25 County departments.</li></ul>
<b>Multi-departmental Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Designing a cross-training curriculum with USC and DCFS to improve collaboration among departments serving foster youth, including DMH, DHS, DPH, and Probation.</li></ul>
<b>Prevention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Developing a plan to build and sustain a comprehensive, integrated family-centered system of services and supports to strengthen families with young children.</li><li>Initial steps include identification of critical gaps with stakeholders as well as effective interventions already working in our communities.</li></ul>
<b>Psychotropic Medication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enhancing oversight of psychotropic medication prescriptions for foster youth to ensure that non-pharmacological interventions are best practice wherever feasible.</li><li>Working with DMH, the Court, DCFS, and Probation to automate the existing process to approve requests for prescriptions of psychotropic medication for foster and probation youth; involves development of a new system called ePMA.</li></ul>
<b>Strategic Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Creating a Countywide Strategic Plan for children to identify and coordinate the resolution of gaps in policy, service delivery, outcomes, partnerships, and operations.</li><li>Plan to focus on service gaps identified across multiple departments or agencies; to incorporate input from a broad mix of stakeholders.</li></ul>

For more information, please visit the OCP website at: <http://priorities.lacounty.gov/childprotection/>